

RECOGNIZING HELENA LOCAL AND MONTANA SENATE AIDE JACKSON RACICOT FOR HIS OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the work of an outstanding young man whose service in the Montana Legislature is an example of the extraordinary impact those with physical disabilities can have on their community.

Jack Racicot is an aide to the Montana Legislature and serves as a clerk for the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee.

During the 2021 Legislative Session, Jack was on a snowboarding trip at Great Divide Ski Area near Helena where he suffered a debilitating accident that crushed his C5 vertebrae and left him paralyzed from the neck down.

After an extensive recovery at the University of Utah Medical Center, Jack returned to the Senate as an aide in the 68th Legislative Session and continues to serve with distinction to this day. Jack's courageous return to work is a poignant reminder of the strength of Montana's young men and women.

I'm humbled to see such a dedicated young man serving his state despite his injuries, and I am proud to recognize him in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE DESIGNATION OF GAINESVILLE'S NEW VA CLINICS

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, I'm proud to recognize the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System for its service on behalf of our nation's veterans through the dedication of the Gainesville Veteran Affairs Mental Health Facility, which began providing care to veterans in 2022.

The clinic, located in Gainesville, Florida, is a state-of-the-art, 39,932 square-foot facility that offers mental health intensive care management, a psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery center, a substance abuse clinic, a compensated work therapy clinic, a post-traumatic stress disorder clinic, community care, and suicide prevention services. The construction of this facility began in 2017 when it was approved by the U.S. Congress as part of the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017.

Our men and women in uniform make the ultimate sacrifice while fighting to protect our nation, and it is our duty as Americans to ensure that they have exceptional health care following their service to the Stars and Stripes.

The North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System has demonstrated a deep commitment to the needs of veterans and their families by constantly striving to expand and improve the quality of care available to our nation's heroes. The dedication of the Gaines-

ville Veteran Affairs Primary Care Facility, since its opening in 2022, has played a vital role in ensuring that our veterans in Florida's Third Congressional District are provided for through the accessibility of experienced health care providers and critical mental health resources.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System for all it has done to serve our community in Florida's Third Congressional District, and I'm excited to see how the Gainesville VA Mental Health Facility will continue to provide for our veterans.

RECOGNIZING THE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Housing Development Consortium for their 35 years of service and affordable housing advocacy within King County.

The Housing Development Consortium (HDC) is a nonprofit organization in King County that has supported countless housing organizations, businesses, and government organizations to meet the housing needs of people with diverse incomes. HDC is a nationally recognized leader in affordable housing advocacy, and their commitment to the Puget Sound region has made tremendous impacts. From fighting for increased funding for new low-income housing to maximizing opportunities for those living on a limited income, HDC continues to play an important role in affordable housing advocacy. Further, HDC pursues these goals through a lens of sustainability to reduce emissions and energy costs for residents. Their work makes our community a safer, better place for all who reside throughout the Puget Sound region.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply grateful for the Housing Development Consortium and their critical work, and I look forward to continuing to work with them to ensure that the residents of King County have access to safe and affordable housing.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCLAMATION FOR MISSISSIPPI TORNADO RECOVERY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as the people of the Mississippi Delta recover from the violent tornadoes that ripped through the 2nd Congressional District last Friday night.

Whereas, the communities in Rolling Fork, Silver City, and Winona were devastated by violent tornadoes on Friday, March 24, 2023; and

Whereas, the Mississippi Delta region is one of the most disadvantaged regions in the United States; and

Whereas, we mourn those who lost their lives, and I am praying for their loved ones in this difficult time; and

Whereas, President Joseph R. Biden, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, and Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Administrator Deanne Criswell acted swiftly to initiate a federal response for the disaster relief effort in Mississippi; and

Whereas, the state of Mississippi has neglected to expand Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act, costing Mississippi over \$14 billion that could have helped communities recover across the 2nd Congressional District; and now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the United States Congress sends its thoughts and prayers to the people of Mississippi as they pick up the pieces and emerge stronger than ever.

HONORING MAYOR ROBERT "BOB" BLAIS FOR HIS 52 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE VILLAGE OF LAKE GEORGE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert "Bob" Blais on an incredible 52-year career as the Mayor of the Village of Lake George. He is currently the country's longest serving mayor and his extraordinary tenure stands as proof of his exceptional stewardship of the Lake George community. While he is retiring at the end of this term, the echoes of his remarkable impact will carry on for decades.

Mayor Blais has devoted the entirety of his adult life to improving and revitalizing the Village of Lake George. He was first elected a village trustee in 1968 but was also a staple in the community for many years prior, serving as a volunteer firefighter, a police officer, and even a dog warden. Just three years after his election to the town board, Blais then mounted a campaign for mayor. He took his first oath of office in June of 1971 and spent the next half century guiding the village toward a brighter future. From strengthening the infrastructure, to preserving Lake George's natural ecosystem, and bolstering the local tourism industry, the outsized effect of Mayor Blais can be seen throughout the village.

From his earliest years in office, Mayor Blais has worked tirelessly to transform the Village of Lake George into a world-renowned tourism destination known for its family friendly atmosphere and widespread appeal. He has been a patient steward of his community's success, a consummate public servant, always willing to set aside his own ego in favor of the village's best interests. Known for responding to every letter and making time for every concern, Mayor Blais put his constituents first, which is a model that all aspiring public servants should aim to follow.

No individual can claim a greater degree of personal responsibility for the village's revitalization and enduring success than Mayor Robert "Bob" Blais. He has dedicated nearly six decades to guiding his local community, and on behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize his exceptional leadership and celebrate his remarkable career.